



**LETTER PUBLISHED IN THE TIMES THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2009**

ONE VOICE TOGETHER – WE CAN BE HEARD

Sir

We have recently launched a campaign – Fair Play For Creators - to highlight our growing concern over the use of our music on the Internet and, in particular, the unfair way we believe music is being treated by Google and YouTube.

We have done so in light of Internet-giant Google's recent decision to remove premium music content from YouTube – the video sharing site it bought for \$1.65bn in 2006. YouTube is one of a suite of services operated by Google which contributed to 2008 profits of £3bn.

At the heart of this is Google's disagreement over the price they should pay for music to the not-for-profit licensing organisation *PRS for Music* which is owned by us and which licenses our music. A *PRS for Music* licence is a legal requirement when music is used by any business.

Understandably, music fans in the UK are confused and angry at Google's decision. We, as songwriters, composers and publishers of music, share those concerns.

It is not in anyone's best interests to block access to music. Fans are denied enjoyment, creators aren't paid and illegal music sites benefit from the resulting displacement of web traffic.

Songwriters and composers did not ask for their music to be removed from YouTube. Nor would they expect Google to continue to benefit from operating a service that relies so heavily on their music, without properly recognising and rewarding them for providing that benefit.

Google says they cannot operate YouTube if they have to pay a royalty – however small – every time a video containing music is played. In 2007, the UK's independent Copyright Tribunal established that a minimum royalty per play was an essential requirement in the licensing of online services. Google fails to recognise this and ascribes little value to music - in spite of a huge increase in music usage on YouTube's UK service in the past year alone. Royalties are a vital

income source for all professional creators and must be preserved to ensure a continued vibrant music industry.

We trust that Google will re-instate music on YouTube for the benefit of all and pay a fair price for the music they use. We hope that we have highlighted a growing problem for all creators whose work is not properly valued in the online space, while web site owners benefit from its use by driving search and traffic to other parts of their service.

Please visit our website [www.fairplayforcreators.com](http://www.fairplayforcreators.com) to see the strength of feeling amongst music creators and add your voice to our campaign.

Yours sincerely,

David Arnold

Jazzie B, OBE

David Bedford, composer, Chair of the BASCA concert executive

William Booth, EMI Music Publishing

Billy Bragg

Ian Brown

Marli Buck, songwriter

Chris Butler, Music Sales

Peter Callander, songwriter and producer

Guy Chambers, songwriter and producer

Mike Chapman, songwriter and producer ('Parallel Lines')

Alison Clarkson (Betty Boo)

Peter Cox (Go West)

Craig David

Ian Dench, songwriter ('Beautiful Liar')

Richard Drummie (Go West)

Joe Echo, songwriter

Nigel Elderton, Chair, Music Publishers Association and Managing Director, peermusic UK

Lynsey de Paul, Ivor Novello Award winning songwriter

Simon Darlow, songwriter ('Slave To The Rhythm')

Guy Fletcher, OBE

Brinsley Forde (Aswad)

Martin Fry (ABC)

Amanda Ghost ('Beautiful Liar')

Robin Gibb, CBE

Goldust

Brendan Graham, songwriter ('You Raise Me Up')

Nicky Graham, songwriter and producer

Tony Hadley

Wayne Hector, songwriter ('Flying Without Wings')

Jools Holland

Honey Ryder

Stuart Hornall, Hornall Brothers Music

Mark Kelly (Marillion)

Andrew King, Mute Song

Beverley Knight

Mick Leeson, songwriter ('If There's Any Justice', 'For Your Eyes Only')  
Steve Levine, songwriter and producer  
Simon May ('Eastenders')  
Mitch Murray, songwriter and producer  
Ndubz  
Simon Platz, Bucks Music Group  
Henry Priestman (formerly The Christians)  
Stuart Price, songwriter ('Hung Up')  
Ellis Rich, Chairman Performing Right Society and International Music Group  
Pam Sheyne, songwriter ('Genie In A Bottle')  
Sacha Skarbek, songwriter ('You're Beautiful')  
Fraser T Smith, songwriter and producer ('Broken Strings')  
Eric Stewart (10CC)  
Martyn Ware (Heaven 17)  
Pete Waterman, OBE  
Debbie Wiseman, MBE  
Nick Wood, songwriter and producer  
Bob Young, songwriter ('Caroline')

Industry Supporters:

Wanda Goldwag, External Director, Performing Right Society  
Patrick Rackow, Chief Executive, BASCA  
John F Smith, General Secretary, British Musicians' Union & President,  
International Federation of Musicians (FIM)